



The CHIMES

Monthly Newsletter of Bethlehem Lutheran Church

⁹Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. ¹²Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. ¹³Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. ¹⁴Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. ¹⁶Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. ¹⁷Do not repay anyone evil for evil but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. ¹⁸If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

Romans 12:9-18

Paul gives instructions to the early church in Rome (and to us in Bethlehem Lutheran today) how to behave towards one another.

We journey together on the path of life. On a journey of faith; with an ever-present goal of a more Christ like life. No one promised it would be an easy journey, but we are not traveling alone; we have God always with us. We also have each other...brothers and sisters in Christ.

The load is always lighter when we have a group lifting together. I ask you to, please, look at your hearts as to how you can assist in lifting this church to new levels of love, stewardship and service. Pray for our church, its leadership, its staff and for all of its parishioners.

Warmer weather often makes for more excuses not to join us here on Sundays. Help us all recommit to making the Sabbath Day holy. Let us make the effort to bring more joy to our worship and in our fellowship.

Christ has risen,
He has risen indeed.

Your humble servant,
Chaplain Dan Pulsfus

Note: if you desire spiritual help, please call the church office or, in an emergency, you can contact me at 608-697-9873.

JOIN US FOR



Bethlehem Lutheran Church

W8267 Hwy 33 East, Portage Wisconsin

Chaplain Dan Pulsfus

608-742-8502 or 608-697-9873

Mailing Address

The P.O Box is no longer use; please mail to
W8267 Hwy 33 East, Portage WI 53901

Office Contact Info

Phone (608) 742-8502

Email bethluch@frontier.com

www.BethlehemLCportage.org – New Address!

From the Council...

Thank you to those of you who were able to attend the congregational “cottage meeting” on Sunday, April 8th. For those of you who could not attend, we talked about the following topics:

- Brief summary of the last year
- The division that has been created based upon each member’s individual expectations of the church
- How the structure of the church affects a pastor’s individual relationships with the members (pastoral church vs. program church)
- The importance of connecting with each other and rebuilding our relationships with each other in order to figure out who we are as a church...so that we can all move forward together.

A few suggestions were made during our discussion to be considered in the future:

- Create a Mutual Ministry committee to support the pastor
- Pastor/staff reviews
- Contemporary services
- Use the projector/screen more often during worship

If you were unable to attend the April 8th meeting and you would like additional information about the topics that were discussed, feel free to contact Tania Anderson at 608-697-5999. Because we ran out of time at the end of the meeting to break into small groups for discussion, we are planning to reschedule that portion of the meeting for another time.

If you were not able to attend the congregational financial meeting on April 15th, please pick up a copy of the current financial reports which are in the narthex. If you have any questions, feel free to take them to a member of the finance committee or a member of council. After reviewing the reports that we have provided, if you have a suggestion for us that will make this information easier to understand or more transparent, please let us know.

We will continue to have these quarterly financial meetings until the congregation is comfortable and satisfied with the information that it is receiving. We plan to meet again in July. Also, in the future, we will be providing a brief monthly overview of our finances in each monthly addition of the Chimes.

Update about the interim:

We have decided not to enter into an interim contract with Pastor Viviane Thomas-Breitfeld. Please know that we are being thorough and honest in our conversations with prospective interim pastors so that we can find a good fit for this church during this time of transition. Thank you for your continued patience.

9:00 a.m. Sunday Worship Services:

It has been recommended by the worship & music committee, and approved by council, to begin a 15-month schedule of only one worship service on Sundays at 9:00 a.m., beginning May 20th. The Wednesday evening services will remain the same. Once we reach regular attendance of 75% or more of the capacity of our church, we will revisit the Sunday worship schedule. This change will offer us the opportunity to reconnect with each other and move forward...together!!

Tania Anderson- *President*

Tim Kratz- *Vice President*

Angela Chappell- *Secretary*

Ed Rohrbacher

Ann Ciske

Fred Reckling

Cheri Dvorak

Kathy Tofson

Robin Kvalo



Mother's Day Cards for Helping Haiti Work

Bethlehem Lutheran Church has been involved with this project for 6 years now. Our first year we collected about \$100.00. To date we have given Helping Haiti Work.org over \$3,000.00 by selling Mother's Day cards for \$5.00.

We have a few members who have chosen to sponsor a full loan for \$200.00, people who have just handed me \$20.00 saying, "my mother would have loved this project", and children who have bought a card for their mom that gives back beyond the \$5.00.



Helping Haiti Work is a nonprofit organization that provides microcredit loans to women in Limbe and Ranquitte, Haiti.

The program is designed to empower women and encourage entrepreneurship. The women are not looking for a hand out. The women are trained in groups of ten and each receives a \$200.00 loan. This organization has granted more than 160 total loans and still has a 100% payback rate.

In addition to the micro-business loans they have added a sewing project that makes reusable menstrual pads. They now go into schools and educate the youth on basic hygiene and health education issues. This project helps replace fear and shame with knowledge and empowerment.

Helping Haiti Work grew out of Dr. Leslee Jaeger's volunteer medical missions in Limbe. Dr. Jaeger is from the Minneapolis area and Karen Anderson (Darlene Anderson-Prest's daughter-in-law) is on the board. I am honored to be their voice here at Bethlehem Lutheran Church. Please consider how you can support this mission this year. If you'd like more information on other things this small grassroots organization is doing, please go to www.helpinghaitiwork.org.

In light of some of the comments that have recently been made about Haiti and other developing nations, Dr. Jaeger wants you to know that "entitled" or "lazy" would be the last words she would ever use to describe the women she works with. Haiti is a land of contradictions: corruption and family strength, sadness and laughter, illiteracy and value of education. She thanks you for your continued support of the people she respects and cares so deeply about.

Cards are \$5.00 each and will be sold between April 15 and May 13. These cards make great graduation cards and cards of encouragement too!

Thank you,
Anne Marie Crawley (608-320-9733)

Thank you, thank you, thank you! The generosity of BLC members has, once again, made a great impact on our community. We were able to collect our goal of 50 cleaning buckets & supplies (and a lot more!) for River Haven Homeless Shelter. These buckets will be given to residents when they leave River Haven. Just before all of these donations were dropped off, Megan was informed by River Haven staff that they had to send one resident off to a new apartment with just a bottle of bleach to help her clean and prepare her new home because they had nothing else on hand to offer her. Staff and residents were so appreciative of your gifts and the BLC volunteers who dropped everything off received several "thank you" comments and big smiles! This project started with the Confirmation students and they would also like to thank everyone in the congregation for their support!!



Sermon Broadcasts

Sign-Up sheets are available on the big table in the Narthex. The cost is \$38 and payment is made to the church. Your help in this area is greatly appreciated!

Thank you to this month's sponsors!

5/6 Robin & Mike Kvalo in memory of Ted Rebholz

5/13 Ed & Ellen Kabele

5/20 Barb Tetzlaff

5/27 Lucille Gauger



Chancel Flowers

Sign-Up sheets to sponsor the cost of our chancel flowers throughout the year can be found on the big table in the Narthex. The cost is \$28 and you will be billed directly by Edgewater Greenhouse. Thank you for supporting our congregation in this way!

Thank you to this month's sponsors!

5/6 Joan VonHaden in honor of her children & grandchildren

5/13 Ron & Nancy Schwenke in celebration of their 58th wedding anniversary

5/20 Travis & Cara Druckrey

5/27 Lucille Gauger

Hello and Welcome to our regular visitors! We're so glad to have you join us in worship and fellowship. We know many of you are interested in joining our BLC family "officially", and we can't wait for that to happen...but plans for future New Member Classes are temporarily on hold, just until we have a permanent pastor in place. Look for more info in the near future! In the meantime, please continue to join in the fun and don't hesitate to reach out to any member of the staff or Council with any questions you may have.



Coffee Hour

Coffee Hour Fellowship is a great tradition here at Bethlehem and we need everyone's participation to keep it going. It's a great time to make new friends, catch up with old friends and enjoy time together here at church.

Please consider joining with some friends or teaming up with another family to host Coffee Hour and share some treats and smiles with the congregation here at Bethlehem. It's really pretty simple and it's a great way to meet people and get to know each other better. If you need more information, just ask one of the staff members or someone else who has hosted before!



The Sign-Up sheet can be found in the Narthex, along with some instructions that may answer any questions you might have.

5/6 Bob & Cloe Rehdantz

5/13 Jeff & Becky Johnson

5/20 Betty Beich and Marj Margelowsky

5/27 Tania & Kory Anderson

Thank you to everyone who organized and volunteered for our clean-up day on Earth Day, April 22nd. With help from lots of hands, we picked up trash from the highway in front of the church, washed windows and cleaned under the eaves, tended to the Prayer Garden, ripped sheets and rolled bandages, decorated lunch bags for the ADRC, cleaned and oiled the pews...and then joined together for fellowship and a potluck meal. Thanks, everyone, for a fun time and a job well done!



At the 9:00 a.m. service on Sunday, May 20th we will celebrate Pentecost – a day of promises fulfilled by the Spirit of God.



Our worship space will be transformed by the color red and we ask all of you to join in that celebration by decorating our altar with geraniums. Just like the Easter lilies and tulips were given in honor and in memory of those family and friends who brighten our lives, you can order beautiful red geraniums which will serve as vivid reminders that the Holy Spirit is calling us to gather together in worship and grow in discipleship.

You are welcome to take the flowers home or donate them to the church. We will then plant the flowers near the Bethlehem sign by the road.

The cost is \$12 per plant and orders can be placed by filling out the information below and dropping it off, along with payment, in the church office by Sunday, May 13th. You can also find order forms in the Narthex.



in Honor of _____

in Memory of _____

given by _____

Amount enclosed (\$12 per plant) \$ _____

Quantity _____ Red Geraniums

Praise Team Leads Worship on Sunday, May 13th



The praise team is always looking to welcome new members to join in the musical worship experience here at Bethlehem. Stop by church at 7:15 p.m. on Tuesday, May 1st and / or Tuesday, May 8th for Praise Team Practice and check it out! If you aren't interested in singing or playing an instrument but have a song suggestion you think might work for an upcoming worship, please chat with one of the Praise Team members.

Have You Completed the Profiler of Congregation Personality Preferences Survey?

Who is Bethlehem? What's our Personality?

We nurture the health of our congregation and recognize that it has its own unique personality. That personality shapes our preferences of our values, including content and style of worship, meetings, content orientation of reports, plans, articles etc., and how we engage in mission. The personality has as general preference of a time orientation; past, present, near future, or distant future. As members, including leaders - clergy especially - understand, honor and lead with the congregation's personality preferences, greater health and vitality in the congregation will be realized. To acquiesce to the influential power of a leader, that promotes a structure, program, or emphasis contrary to the congregation's personality preferences, will have consequences of broken trust and conflict.

Join us after worship on **May 27th** as Dr. Michael C. Rehak from the Institute for Congregational Identity shares with us the results of the profiler we completed and helps us understand what that means for us in this pastoral transition and as we move into the call process.

Sunday School News

First Communion will be on Sunday, May 13th at the 10:30 a.m. service. Thank you, Jeff Melby, for leading our 5th graders in lessons about the importance of this holy sacrament.



For the rest of the Sunday School grades, our lessons in May will be about The Holy Spirit Comes Down (Acts 10:44-48) and Matthias the Apostle (Acts 1:15-17, 21-26).

There is one service on Sunday, May 20th at 9:00 a.m. Following the service there will be a Spring congregational celebration potluck. *This is for all ages, young and old!*



If you would like to help or have a game you would like to bring, let Jeanette know. Hot Dogs, BBQ, buns, Lemonade and water will be provided.

We are asking families to bring something to share, based on last name:

- A-G salad or fruit
- H-N desserts
- O-Z vegetables or chips

The theme for Vacation Bible School this summer is Shipwrecked. More information and registrations forms will be available soon. Our summer VBS program is always a lot of fun and we look forward to seeing our younger kids there as campers, and our older kids as volunteers. Who wouldn't want to hang out with friends, make crafts, eat snacks, sing songs and learn about Jesus?!



Parents, we would like to thank you for encouraging your children's faith journey by participating in the Sunday School program this year. We look forward to teaching them in the Fall.

We are looking for several co-teachers, as well as a co-coordinator for next year. Please help us to continue the great tradition of Sunday School involvement we have enjoyed here at BLC! If you are interested, please see or call Jeanette Gessner (608-617-5228) or Ann Ciske (608-617-7415).

Have a great Summer!

Bethlehem Lutheran Church Sunday School Staff

Vacation Bible School 2018

We Need Volunteers!!

This year's theme for VBS is Shipwrecked. Planning is underway, and we are in need of volunteers! We will eventually need group leaders and helpers, but our immediate needs include volunteers interested in helping with Bible Discovery (drama), a Mission Project craft, KidVid Camera, Imagination Station (crafts), or someone willing to work on a daily newsletter during VBS week.

If you are interested in helping out with one of the most fun weeks of summer, please contact Tania Anderson at 608-697-5999. Thanks!



A Note from Megan...

The month of April brought some great opportunities for us!

The Confirmation class had set a goal to donate 50 buckets of cleaning supplies to River Haven in Portage. With everyone's help we were able to meet that goal of 50 buckets! Awesome job everyone!



The Saver's FUNDrive went great. We ended up donating about 2,500 pounds of donations! Saver's will now try to sell those donations, but whatever they do not sell will get sent to countries in need. Thank you again to everyone who donated!

Here are the upcoming events:

May 5th Shanty Town – Habitat for Humanity sponsor an event at Lodi Fairgrounds where they invite youth to come and build a shanty to sleep in for the night. This encourages the kids to learn about H4H and the many struggles of homelessness in our world. While also *enjoying games, music, soup supper, and a worship service*. I am looking for some adult chaperones; let me know if you're interested! (Even if it's only for a couple hours). Thank you to everyone in the congregation who joined in to help the Shanty Town Team raise money for H4H by dropping an extra donation in the basket on Sunday, April 22. We raised more than our original goal of \$100! Your generous hearts are a great example for our Youth. If you'd like to donate supplies (such as cardboard, duct tape, tarps and carpet remnants) they can still be dropped off at church by Friday, May 4th.

May 19th Trivia Night 6-9pm @ Portage Elks – must be 21 or older, there will be beer and wine served. Teams of 6, join us for trivia, silent auction, raffles/games, and a good time! If you have kids and need a babysitter for the night, feel free to drop them off at the church with adult volunteers and the high school youth where there will be games, crafts & snacks. Tickets are on sale now – get a team together & don't miss out!

Thank you to everyone who stopped at Culver's on Monday, April 23rd to support the Youth Group by participating in the Culver's Night fundraising. We are grateful to the Portage Culver's for allowing us the chance to raise money for our upcoming Houston trip while helping to serve food and clear tables.



All of the kids who helped had a lot of fun (and enjoyed some yummy food!) and were very happy to see so many friendly faces there.

Bring on the warm weather and spring cleaning! With spring cleaning, it is also important to refresh our minds, hearts, and souls. Ask God to scrub our hearts clean, clean out those cobwebs of negative thoughts, and allow yourself the freedom to move into a new season!

if we confess our sins
He is *faithful* and *just*
to **forgive our sins**
and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

1 John 1:9

Megan Jahoda
Youth and Family Ministries Coordinator
914-760-5745

SHANTY TOWN 2018



**Saturday, May 5th-Sunday May 6th
Lodi Fairgrounds**

Come build a cardboard shanty and spend the night under the stars, and support Habitat for Humanity of Wisconsin River Area.

- Learn about housing issues in our area
- Enjoy games, activities, and a soup kitchen meal
- Win prizes
- Raise pledges to help build Habitat homes in 2018

Organize a team from your youth group, 4-H group, or neighborhood!

Details and registration information at
hfhwisconsinriver.org or call (608) 448-2888!



Please call Lisa Cook in the church office if you can help with one of the open spots!

May Worship Volunteers 2018									
Date	Time	Greeters	Ushers	Readers	Communion Assistants	Altar Guild	Acolytes	Nursery Assistants	
Wed 5/2	5:30 PM					Diane Grueneberg	Grace Lauth		
Sun 5/6	8:00 AM	Tim & Luanne Peterson	Ed & Marie Rohrbacher	Tim Peterson	Joan Swift, Nancy Buckley	Kari Wagner & Cindy Frank	Vaughn Tofson	Will & Michelle Jones	
Sun 5/6	10:30	Dianne Bush	<i>Still need help!</i>	Fred Reckling	Bonnie Dixon, Maddie Cook		<i>Still need help!</i>	Payton & Amber Bryan	
Wed 5/9	5:30 PM					Judy Donahue	Tyler Zabler		
Sun 5/13	8:00 AM	Dan & Jen Garrigan	Art & Kim Wagner	John Denhartigh	Tom & Barb Steinhaus	Bobbie Goodman & Minta Brandsma	Alec Wagner	Griffin Garrigan, Bobbie Goodman	
Sun 5/13	10:30 AM	Jeff & Becky Johnson	Roger Duchow	Judy LaMarche	Jeff & Kerry Melby		Madelyn Johnson	Ava & Jenny Wohlfert	
Wed 5/16	5:30 PM					Kathy Lawrence	Brett Zellmer		
Sun 5/20	9:00 AM	Ann Marie Crawley	Karissa Jahn	Emma Goldthorpe	Max & Amy Jenatscheck	Bobbie Goodman & Minta Brandsma	Jacob Goldthorpe	Braxton Druckrey, Bonnie Hulsizer	
Wed 5/23	5:30 PM					Cheryl Hebel	Grace Lauth		
Sun 5/27	9:00 AM	Del & Margaret Molden	<i>Still need help!</i>	Robin Kvalo	Mike & Robin Kvalo	Marie Kucksdorf & Cara Druckrey	Alex Brouette	<i>Still need help!</i>	
Wed 5/30	5:30 PM					Judy Donahue	Alex Schilling		

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

May 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 9:00 am Quilting Group 6:00 pm ZUMBA	2 10:30 am Tai Chi 5:30 pm Worship 6:30 pm 1st Communion Class 6:30 pm Confirmation	3	4 8:30 am FH Room Reservation - Columbia County 10:30 am Tai Chi	5
6 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am 1st Communion Class 9:15 am Blood Pressure Screening 9:15 am Choir Practice 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Sunday School Teacher Meeting 10:30 am Worship	7 10:00 am Staff Meeting 10:30 am Tai Chi 6:30 pm Euchre	8 9:00 am Quilting Group 6:00 pm ZUMBA	9 10:30 am Tai Chi 5:30 pm Worship 6:30 pm 1st Communion Class 6:30 pm Confirmation 6:30 pm Council Meeting	10 9:00 am Women's Group	11 10:30 am Tai Chi	12
13 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am First Communion at 10:30 am Worship 10:30 am Worship	14 10:00 am Staff Meeting 10:30 am Tai Chi 6:30 pm Euchre	15 9:00 am Quilting Group 6:00 pm ZUMBA 6:30 pm Finance Committee	16 10:30 am Tai Chi 5:30 pm Worship 6:30 pm Confirmation	17	18 10:30 am Tai Chi	19
20 Spring-Fling 9:00 am Congregational Celebration 9:15 am Worship--SS kids sing 9:15 am Choir Practice	21 10:00 am Chimes Articles Due Staff Meeting 10:30 am Tai Chi 6:30 pm Euchre 6:30 pm SRA meeting	22 9:00 am Quilting Group 1:00 pm Knitting at Beth Johnson's house 6:00 pm ZUMBA	23 10:30 am Confirmation Potluck Tai Chi 5:30 pm Worship 6:30 pm Confirmation	24	25 10:30 am Tai Chi	26
27 9:00 am Worship 9:15 am Choir Practice	28 10:00 am Staff Meeting 10:30 am Tai Chi 6:30 pm Euchre	29 9:00 am Quilting Group 6:00 pm ZUMBA	30 10:30 am Tai Chi 5:30 pm Worship	31		